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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on Environmental Requirements and International Trade
Geneva, 2–4 October 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Environmental requirements and international trade

4. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document.

Item 3: Environmental requirements and international trade

3. The experts will examine actual and potential trade and development effects (both positive and negative) of environmental requirements on developing countries, paying special attention to the conditions and needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Subsequently, they will seek to identify policies and measures to strengthen capacities of developing countries, in particular SMEs, to better respond to environmental requirements and benefit from opportunities in their export and domestic markets. They will also examine means for developed countries to mitigate possible negative effects of their environmental requirements on developing country trading partners. In addition, they will look into relevant issues in the WTO post-Doha work programme.

4. Presentations by country experts are expected to provide country-specific experiences and views. A proposed guideline for inputs by experts is attached.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.19/2	Environmental requirements and international trade: Background note by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

5. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at its next session. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairperson, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

Day 1 (2 October 2002)	Day 2 (3 October 2002)	Day 3 (4 October 2002)
(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.) **Plenary** Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work **Informals** Item 3: Environmental requirements and international trade	*(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)
(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.) **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.)* **Plenary (closing)** Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

GUIDELINES FOR INPUTS BY EXPERTS

Experts nominated by member States are requested to submit brief papers to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. Papers will be made available to other participants at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received, as well as on the UNCTAD Web site at http://www.unctad.org/trade_env.

Experts are kindly requested to submit their papers (hardcopy and electronic format) by 15 September to: Nuria Castells, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD, E.8031, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Tel. (41-22) 917-1796, Fax (41-22) 917-0247, e-mail: nuria.castells@unctad.org.

To facilitate a structured exchange of national experiences, experts are invited (but not required) to formulate their inputs according to the questions below. Experts may choose to give special attention to one or more topics which are of most relevance to their national experience and from which lessons could be drawn for the benefit of the other participants. Concrete illustrative examples are encouraged.

Key questions particularly for experts from *developing countries* could include:

Environmental requirements, market access and competitiveness

- Have environmental requirements in external markets had effects on your country's exports? If yes, in which sectors?
- Have such requirements resulted in changes in the domestic market and production structure?
- Have studies been carried out on costs of compliance?
- What are the major constraints in responding to such requirements?
- How can these constraints be best overcome?

Strengthening capacities to respond to environmental requirements in export markets

- What have been your national experiences with regard to:
    - Dissemination of standard-related information to domestic stakeholders
    - Strengthening national and regional institutions to conduct risk analysis and testing, monitor enforcement of standards and carry out certification
    - Supporting technology, innovation and enterprise development (e.g. innovation through new methods for processing and packaging, with greater emphasis given to environmentally friendly production methods and inputs)
    - Promoting research and development and exchange of information on traditional and environmentally preferable production methods suitable to local conditions
    - Promoting business partnerships between foreign and local firms as a means to strengthen capacities to comply with standards and enhance competitiveness

  - Adopting specific measures for SMEs, consistent with WTO rules, such as technological support, support for investment in improving infrastructure, support for certification, etc.
- What are your country's specific capacity building needs and priorities?
- What technical assistance is currently being implemented in your country and what are the most useful approaches and projects?

Trading opportunities and developmental effects

- Have environmental requirements in external markets led to concrete trading opportunities in your country? If so, in which sectors?
- What positive effects of environmental requirements have you seen in your country, e.g. improved environmental quality, cost-savings due to rationalized use of natural resources, spill-over health and social effects, etc?

The WTO Doha work programme

- On which of the issues listed below does your country want to see tangible progress in the post-Doha discussions?
  - Review of special and differential (S&D) treatment provisions with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational
  - Examining how to enhance the effectiveness of transparency provisions relating to standards and environmental labelling
  - Further examination of scientific underpinnings and technology transfer provisions in relevant WTO agreements
  - Exploring possibilities of facilitating market access for environmentally preferable products (EPPs) from developing countries
  - Including developing country EPPs in negotiations on environmental goods and services

Key questions particularly for experts from *developed countries* could include:

- What steps, if any, have been taken or are envisaged to involve developing country trading partners in setting environmental standards and regulations or criteria for eco-labelling programmes?
- What measures are taken or foreseen to mitigate possible negative effects of environmental requirements on the market access and competitiveness of developing country trading partners? This could include, for example:
  - Policy ..easures
  - Mechanisms for improved flows of standard-related information to developing country producers, including early warning systems on emerging standards
  - Inclusion of developing country trading partners in impact assessments of emerging requirements
  - Harmonization and mutual recognition of standards and regulations
  - Technical assistance and capacity-building programmes

- How can WTO Members ensure that the post-Doha work programme concerning standards truly reflects the development dimension?